

Meeting Summary
NATIONAL PARKS OVERFLIGHTS ADVISORY GROUP (NPOAG)
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE MEETING
February 25, 2009
9:00 am to 12:00 pm (Pacific Standard Time)

ACTION ITEMS

The following action items were identified during the conference call. A detailed list of other current and past action items is presented in Attachment 1.

FAA/NPS

- The National Park Service (NPS) will explore the availability of a toll-free line for future teleconference calls.
- NPS will post the Final December 1 Conference Call Meeting Summary at its website.
- NPS will distribute to all National Parks Overflights Advisory Group (NPOAG) members information regarding past efforts to prioritize parks for Air Tour Management Plans (ATMPs).
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will distribute a competitive bidding process proposal, including a flow chart of the process, in the next several weeks and wants input from the Competitive Bidding Subgroup and/or from NPOAG.
- The agencies will consider setting one more teleconference call for NPOAG to complete its strategic plan including tasks and priorities.

ATTENDANCE

See Attachment 2 for a list of attendees.

Agenda Review

Because of complications members experienced in connecting to the call, facilitator Bob Wheeler convened the meeting at 9:25 am PST. He welcomed the members of the Advisory Group to the conference call and provided information on how participants (including members of the public listening to the call) could connect via Glance software to access documents online. He then reviewed protocols for the call and the meeting agenda.

He said the purposes of the call were to allow NPOAG to finalize the Group's groundrules, goals and objectives. If time permitted, the group would also build on its previous work on tasks and priorities. Brief presentations were also expected on the Death Valley National Park Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) and on a strawman proposal for a competitive bidding process for limited capacity parks.

Updates from NPS and FAA

Mr. Wheeler reminded NPOAG members that the position of chair of NPOAG alternates between NPS and FAA every year, per the National Parks Air Tour Management Act (NPATMA), and that NPS is the current chair. He then invited Vicki McCusker of NPS to provide an update. Ms. McCusker said she was filling in for Karen Trevino who is on leave until March 23. She thanked members for making time for today's call and said she hoped the group could make additional progress on its strategic plan. She provided the following updates:

- Tom Strickland from Colorado has been nominated to be Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Department of Interior.
- In January the Natural Sounds program received a request from the Obama transition team for a briefing on the Hawaii ATMPs.
- NPS hopes to issue the Mt. Rushmore Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review in the summer.

Barry Brayer of FAA apologized for the problems members experienced when trying to connect to today's call

and also thanked NPOAG members for their commitment and hard work, echoing Ms. McCusker's appreciation. He said he had received positive feedback about the previous call and hoped the group could wrap up its strategic plan on today's call. He provided the following updates:

- FAA/NPS intend for the next meeting to be face-to-face when the Mt. Rushmore Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is completed, likely in June or July. Chip Dennerlein asked for clarification of the timing and the location of the meeting because the schedule seemed to be slipping and the location to be changing. NPS indicated that staff had worked hard on the Mt. Rushmore Draft EA but that it would not be ready to issue in April. Mr. Dennerlein noted that if the Mt. Rushmore meeting would not occur for five months, NPOAG should add a conference call meeting.
- Because of hacker intrusion, the ATMP website and the Grand Canyon websites are currently down.
- He introduced Lisa Holden of FAA as the new attorney for ATMPs; she recently worked on the redesign of the airspace over New York and New Jersey.
- After the December 1, 2008 NPOAG Conference Call, FAA met with Natural Sounds Program staff at Ft. Collins and made a lot of good progress in many areas.
- FAA agreed to conduct ambient noise monitoring at four parks in Florida and three in California.
- FAA is moving forward on the Death Valley ARC, identifying stakeholders and continuing with planning.
- FAA is continuing work on drafting a competitive bidding process. FAA will distribute the draft proposal to NPOAG and wants input from the group at its next meeting.
- Another Exposure Response Workshop is scheduled for May for technical experts. FAA will provide a report after the workshop.
- With respect to NPOAG Membership, he indicated that Rory Majenty's term ends in April 2009. Two Federal Register notices, now closed, had announced the opening for the three-year appointment. He indicated that the terms of six other NPOAG members – Richard Deertrack, Chip Dennerlein, Randy Kenagy, Greg Miller, Alan Stephen and Matt Zuccaro -- expire on October 9, 2009. FAA will send public notice out six months in advance of that, in early April. He said that FAA and NPS have appreciated NPOAG member participation to date and said these members can re-apply when the Federal Register notice appears, publicly announcing open seats on the group.
- The Grand Canyon Working Group is planning to meet in Phoenix on April 15 when the NPS will discuss its preferred alternative. In advance of that meeting, the FAA and NPS are continuing with tribal government consultations and will have a tribal consultation meeting in Flagstaff to discuss the NPS preferred alternative. He said the Grand Canyon process is moving forward and he is proud of the progress made to date. In response to Rory Majenty's question about the status of the NPS "preferred alternative," Mr. Brayer indicated that the NPS preferred alternative is a new alternative and that it is in addition to seven or eight other alternatives that have been discussed. He said the draft environmental impact state (DEIS) will be developed after the April 15 Working Group meeting and then released for public review. It could be changed as a result of the public process.
- Legislation in the House of Representatives (HR 915), FAA Reauthorization, includes an amendment to NPATMA and is the same language as in the previous Reauthorization (HR 2881 in 2007). Chip Dennerlein commented that since the bill is active, it would be helpful for NPOAG to get an update from FAA/NPS so members would know the status, language and timing. Mr. Brayer responded that the House bill provides exemption for parks that have 50 or fewer flights per year and to allow the FAA and NPS to enter into voluntary agreements.

Approval of the December Meeting Summary

Mr. Wheeler asked if there were any comments on the draft summary of the December 1, 2008 conference call. Since there were no comments, the summary is considered final. NPS volunteered to post the final summary on its website since the FAA's website is down; FAA requested that NPS do so.

Review of Action Items from the December 1, 2008 Conference Call

Mr. Wheeler led a review of a three-page action items list, one by one, included in Attachment 1 to the

December 1, 2008 Meeting Summary. This tracking system was developed in response to NPOAG input that continuity of actions and topics had previously been lacking. The purpose of the list, he said, is to keep track of progress on a wide range of topics, actions, and issues that NPOAG identifies or requests. As items are completed, he said, they will be moved from the active list to a completed list.

Updates from Other NPOAG Members

Mr. Wheeler invited other NPOAG members to provide updates or announcements. Alan Stephen announced that his company had filed a formal complaint against a Grand Canyon air tour operator for exceeding the maximum allotment of flights in that company's allocations in 2006, 2007, and 2008. He said he was bringing this issue to the attention of NPOAG in the interest of full disclosure and to make the group aware of policy issues related to enforcement. This announcement led to an extended discussion.

Members recognized that the FAA could not comment on the specific case since the complaint is an active case, but they wanted to know, on a policy level, whether or not FAA could and would enforce limits in Interim Operating Authorities (IOAs). NPS indicated that this same issue is a concern at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Mr. Majenty said that flights that go below designated flight patterns are a huge issue for tribes. Several members expressed concern that if violations of limits in IOAs are not enforced, then IOAs have no accountability and are meaningless. Mr. Stephen said that this situation puts tour operators who comply with limits in their IOAs at a competitive disadvantage.

The discussion then focused on whether or not the NPOAG is authorized under the NPATMA to address and provide advice on enforcement as part of advising the agencies on implementation. Mr. Stephen acknowledged that the law includes no penalties but indicated his belief that the FAA could enforce against violations of limits in IOAs. He asked if, on a policy level rather than in this specific case, the FAA would take action when there are clear violations of limits in IOAs.

At the end of the discussion, NPOAG members agreed to add this issue to the existing list of tasks and priorities to be considered later in the meeting. It was also agreed that NPOAG members who wanted a copy of the letter of complaint with the docket number would send an email to Mr. Stephen and he would attach the letter in his reply.

NPOAG Groundrules

Mr. Wheeler recalled that the draft groundrules that members were reviewing (and that were visible to participants and the listening public) reflected their discussions from previous meetings. He noted that the group had reached agreement on most of the provisions; therefore, he focused discussion on the remaining items. The facilitation team made suggested revisions to the text in response to comments. The text and changes were visible to all conference call participants online; Mr. Wheeler read revised provisions aloud for participants who did not have access to a computer. At the end of the discussion, Mr. Wheeler asked NPOAG members, individually, to signal their approval of the groundrules. All members agreed in a consensus decision. The groundrules are now considered final but can be changed by the NPOAG in the future as the need arises.

Mission, Goals and Objectives

Mr. Wheeler noted that the proposed Advisory Group's mission is taken from NPATMA and recalled for the group that it had begun work on goals and objectives to accomplish the mission in September and made some progress during the December conference call. The goal for today, he said, was to complete the goals and objectives. The draft as of the December conference call was visible to all participants with Internet access and they could see revised text as it was proposed and then the final language once it was approved. As with the groundrules, Mr. Wheeler read the changes aloud so members without Internet access could follow the discussion, provide comments, and approve final text. Changes were made to reflect the fact that the NPOAG provides advice to the agencies. Changes were also made to the list of issues and topics the NPOAG should focus on and some of the objectives were realigned to fit with more appropriate goals. At the end of the discussion, he polled members individually to ask for their agreement. All members agreed

and the mission, goals and objectives are now final. They are presented in Attachment 3.

At the request of members, the next items were a status report on the development of a competitive bidding process and a presentation on the Death Valley ARC.

Competitive Bidding

Keith Lusk of FAA's Los Angeles office explained that whenever the ATMP restricts operations for a particular time, NPATMA requires going through a competitive bidding process. FAA interprets this to mean restrictions for any period of time, i.e., at a yearly, monthly, daily and hourly level. As input into its draft, he said that the FAA has reviewed notes from five or six previous NPOAG meetings to find the group's input on this process; FAA also used previous input from James Whitlow, Deputy Chief Counsel. Mr. Lusk said FAA intends to prepare a formal written process and will circulate it in the next several weeks to the Competitive Bidding Subgroup, with a goal of getting the Subgroup's feedback and advice on the draft. In addition, if an interim teleconference call is held before the live meeting at Mt. Rushmore, it could be an agenda item. He said that Lisa Holden, at FAA Headquarters, will be the focal point for these issues. With respect to the timing of the process, there are three major decision points. The first is NEPA review when the alternatives are analyzed. The second is the Record of Decision where the agency identifies its preferred alternative. The third step is incorporating the selected alternative into an ATMP which includes the conditions and measures related to operations. Competitive bidding occurs after NEPA review and is part of the ATMP.

Mr. Lusk then asked for the names of Competitive Subgroup members. Those on the call did not recall. When a number of members expressed interest, Mr. Lusk said he would send the draft to the entire Advisory Group. He said there could be a discussion about the Subgroup at the next NPOAG meeting.

Death Valley Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC)

Pete Ciesla (FAA) and Lelaina Marin (NPS) provided an update on the Death Valley ARC process which is intended to expedite the development of an ATMP. Using a PowerPoint presentation that was visible to all meeting participants with online access, Mr. Ciesla said they are in the process of developing a project plan and schedule. The initial ARC meeting is scheduled for April, with a goal of trying to reach consensus on an ATMP for the park. If the Committee is successful in reaching consensus on an ATMP, they will then initiate an EA.

Mr. Ciesla identified several concerns that have emerged in the choice of Death Valley as the test case for an expedited ATMP: there are military aircraft training in the park's airspace and the park staff believe the environmental studies could take well over a year, which makes it difficult at this time to determine whether the park is suitable for an ARC process. In response to a question from Chip Dennerlein as to when a final decision will be made about the "test case" park, Mr. Brayer responded that it was a valid question. He said that each time they have picked a test case, hurdles have been identified. Since a NEPA EA can take a year or more, it's worth asking how many resources should be invested in it. If we can't complete the ARC process in a timely manner, we should focus on a park with a higher number of flights. Mr. Dennerlein said that Mr. Brayer's response addressed his issue which is how to get the best return on the investment. Mr. Halvorson agreed.

Ms. Marin added that, because of the military training, there was discussion of having a representative from the Department of Defense serve as a member of ARC. She also noted that since the Death Valley Superintendent is relatively new, the position of ARC chair has been delegated to the Park's Resource Manager. Mr. Halvorson and Mr. Stephen expressed interest in being on the Death Valley ARC.

Next Steps

Because the remaining time on the call was short and the agencies wanted to hear closing comments from members, Mr. Wheeler asked for and received approval for Triangle to suggest revisions to the tasks and

priorities based on the Group's approved goals and objectives. Triangle is to color-code the changes, so the facilitation team's work is clearly distinguished from the work of the members.

Closing comments included:

- Rory Majenty, who had to leave the call before it concluded, offered the following comments. He said that he had been glad to participate on NPOAG because the issues the group was addressing were significant for Native Americans. He said he would like to continue to be involved even though his term expires in April. He said that if he is not selected to serve on NPOAG again, he would still continue to be involved in the issues through his role in tribal government. He closed by saying that it had been a real pleasure to get to know all of the members.
- Ms. McCusker said she would be willing to schedule another conference call to allow the group to finish its work on a priority task list, to complete its strategic plan. She thanked participants for their participation on this three-hour call and said that the next call would be no more than two hours in length.
- Alan Stephen said he also favored a conference call to complete the list of tasks and priorities, especially if pending legislation makes changes to NPOAG tasks.
- Chip Dennerlein agreed with Mr. Stephen and again emphasized his concern about the need for enforcement of IOAs.
- Kristen Brengel said that she looked forward to a live meeting where the focus could be on how to make things happen. She said she wanted better communications and asked the agencies to keep members apprised of the status of Mt. Rushmore and of Death Valley.
- Elling Halvorson said the teleconference had gone well and he also was interested in seeing a completed list of tasks and priorities. He said he thought it was important to meet face-to-face because it would help the group to become more action- and results-oriented.
- Alan Stephen agreed with the other members. He also commented that a better system was needed for getting members online at the start of meetings.
- Barry Brayer thanked all of the participants for their time, including the members of the public who were able to listen only. Live meetings have an advantage over teleconference calls because there are designated opportunities for the public to provide input. He invited the public to send comments to him using the contact information in the Federal Register Notice for this call. He said that the group will have a live meeting as soon as possible, probably this summer. He said they need the NPOAG's advice on the six areas identified in the tasks and priorities and possibly on a seventh which the FAA was considering bringing to the group but had not yet made a final decision.

In closing, Ms. McCusker said that even if the schedule for the Mt. Rushmore EA were to slip, she thought NPOAG should have a live meeting this summer because live meetings are productive. She also agreed that some type of update could be useful between meetings so members could make better use of their time during meetings. She also invited the public to email comments to her. She said NPS would post materials at the Natural Sounds website as soon as possible.

With that, Ms. McCusker closed the meeting at 12:05 pm.

ATTACHMENT 1
ACTION ITEMS
National Parks Overflight Advisory Group

Action Item	Responsible Party	Due Date	Done?	Comments
<u>NPOAG Membership</u>				
Recruit tribal representatives to the Advisory Group.	FAA/NPS	Next meeting	Ongoing	Rory's term expires in April 2009. Federal register notice went out and Rory expressed interest in continuing on NPOAG.
<u>Information/Briefings</u>				
Provide example of an ATMP resource book for the military.	Karen, NPS	Next meeting	Ongoing	Vicki will send out a link to an example on the Natural Sounds website.
Distribute information to NPOAG regarding past efforts to prioritize parks for ATMPs.	NPS	Next Meeting	Ongoing	NPS is working with FAA and VOLPE to get recent information to the Group. Vicki will send out information on processes that were launched at several parks but have not progressed.
Schedule live meeting of the Advisory Group.	FAA/NPS	June or July	Ongoing	Depending on the schedule of the EA, Mount Rushmore may be the meeting location.
<u>Long Term Tasks</u>				
Encourage VOLPE to allow operators to enter their ATOA data past the quarterly deadline.	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	Believe this is for the ATOA database which is currently being developed. Operators would have a month after each quarter to report their quarterly flight results. Not sure what is being sought here.
Complete a draft Environmental Assessment for Mount Rushmore.	FAA	Review status at next meeting	Potentially Summer 2009	Likely to be completed in June or July
Investigate the situation at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and report back to the Advisory Group.	Matt Zuccaro	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	Matt has not been able to visit Hawaii
Hire a facilitator for future meetings and investigate conference call technology.	FAA/NPS	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	Barry and Karen will discuss hiring a permanent facilitator

Action Item	Responsible Party	Due Date	Done?	Comments
Provide update on legislation relevant to NPOAG	FAA/NPS	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	FAA/NPS will provide updates as information becomes available.
<u>Straw Proposals for NPOAG to Consider</u>				
Develop a straw man for procedures and process in handling IOA requests.	Karen, NPS	Next meeting	Ongoing	
Distribute a straw process proposal on competitive bidding procedures in advance of the next meeting.	FAA	Next Meeting	Ongoing	FAA is putting together information for the next meeting.

Completed Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Party	Due Date	Done?	Comments
Determine if Native Hawaiians are eligible to fill a Native American position on the NPOAG.	James Whitlow	12/1/08	Yes	Native Hawaiians are not eligible to fill a Native American position on NPOAG
Develop and agree on groundrules.	NPOAG	12/1/08	Yes	NPOAG members adopted groundrules at their meeting on 2/25/09.
Develop mission, goals and objectives.	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Yes	NPOAG members approved mission, goals and objectives at their meeting on 2/25/09.
Briefing on the AEDT model at the next NPOAG.	FAA	12/1/08	Yes	Briefing was provided at the December Conference Call.
Post HALE and HAVO Social Science Research reports on ATMP website.	Vicki, FAA, Cindy Orlando, NPS	12/1/08	Yes	Completed.
Provide ATOA presentation at next NPOAG meeting.	FAA	12/1/08	Yes	Briefing was provided at the December Conference Call
Ensure that new Advisory Group members are sent a CD with important documents.	FAA/NPS	12/1/08	Yes	Completed
Set the next meeting of the Advisory Group for sometime in December.	FAA/NPS	12/1/08	Yes	Completed

Action Items Moved to NPOAG Strategic Plan

Action Item	Responsible Party	Due Date	Done?	Comments
Establish and agree on a common base of information for all group members.	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	Information is available to members on the NPOAG FTP site provided to members at the September meeting.
Develop communications protocol.	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	
Develop a work plan and tracking system to ensure tasks are accomplished.	NPOAG	Next meeting	Ongoing	The Facilitation team has developed a format to track tasks in the meeting minutes.
Develop a resource guide explaining the ATMP process.	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	
Establish criteria and guidance for Park Superintendents and air tour operators for prioritized parks.	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	
Consult with Park Superintendents to develop criteria for determining where ATMPs are not needed.	NPS	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	NPS is asking Regional Directors to bring in superintendents with expertise to assist in this effort.
Determine criteria for prioritizing National Parks for Air Tour Management Plans.	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	
Prioritize National Parks for ATMPs.	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	
Form subgroups to target National Parks for ATMPs and assist in ATMP development.	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	
Consider NPOAG role in providing advice on enforcement as part of implementation	FAA/NPS	Future meeting	Ongoing	
Assist in the resolution of agency disagreements. Develop groundrules for NPS/FAA	NPOAG	Review at next meeting	Ongoing	FAA/NPS met in December to discuss this issue. NPOAG needs to discuss how this could best be accomplished and if agency agreements are not furthered how should NPOAG continue its efforts and be productive.

ATTACHMENT 2
MEETING ATTENDEES
National Parks Overflight Advisory Group

National Parks Overflight Advisory Group Members			
Last	First	Seat	In Attendance?
Barger	Don	National Parks Conservation Association	
Brengel	Kristen	The Wilderness Society	✓
Deertrack	Richard	Taos Pueblo Tribe	
Dennerlein	Chip	Environmental Interests	✓
Fahner	Bryan	National Parks Conservation Association (Alternate for Don Barger)	✓
Halvorson	Elling	Papillon Airways	✓
Majenty	Rory	Hualapai Nation	✓
Miller	Gregory	American Hiking Society	
Stephen	Alan	Fixed-Wing Air Tour Operator Representative	✓
Zuccaro	Matthew	Helicopter Association International	

Ex-Officio Members			
Last	First	Organization	In Attendance?
Brayer	Barry	Federal Aviation Administration	✓
McCusker	Vicki	National Park Service (Alternate for Karen Trevino)	✓

Others in Attendance

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Staff		
Last	First	Title/Department
Ciesla	Pete	AWP Special Programs Office
Joly	Paul	National Air Tour Safety Specialist
Lusk	Keith	AWP Special Programs Office
McKee	Roland	All Weather Operations Program Manager
Holden	Lisa	AGC Legal
Herson-Jones	Lorraine	AWP Legal
National Park Service (NPS) Staff		
Last	First	Title/Department
Marin	Lelaina	Natural Sounds Program
Edwards	Michael	Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
Mattix	Carla	Dept. of Interior, Office of Counsel
Bunyak	John	Air Resources Division

ATTACHMENT 3
FINAL MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
National Parks Overflight Advisory Group
(As Adopted at the February 25, 2009 NPOAG Teleconference Call Meeting)

Mission (From the 2000 Air Tour Management Act)	
The advisory group shall provide advice, information, and recommendations to the Administrator and the Director:	
(1) On the implementation of this title and the amendments made by this title;	
(2) On commonly accepted quiet aircraft technology for use in commercial air tour operations over a national park or tribal lands, which will receive preferential treatment in a given air tour management plan;	
(3) On other measures that might be taken to accommodate the interests of visitors to national parks; and	
(4) At the request of the Administrator and the Director, safety, environmental, and other issues related to commercial air tour operations over a national park or tribal lands.	

Initial Goals		Initial Objectives
1	Assist NPS/FAA in achieving resolution of jurisdictional issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for resolution of NPS/FAA jurisdictional issues. • Work with the agencies to move relationship beyond the agency MOU. • Increase cooperation between the agencies. • Encourage agencies to resolve, to the extent possible, disagreements ahead of NPOAG meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Document and track NPS/FAA agreements and disagreements ○ Obtain and develop a list of NPS/FAA agreements
2	Successfully assist in the establishment of ATMPs for all applicable parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize Parks for ATMPs. • Agree on Low Priority Parks. • Establish criteria/guidelines for Superintendents and local operators to resolve issues. • Develop Resource Guide for completing ATMPs.
3	Define a process that can be used as a template for future ATMPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a template park for completing an ATMP. • Advisory Group will bring recommendations that will assist in the successful completion of the first ATMP. • Provide advice on a common base of solid scientific data. • Provide advice on a common set of criteria for evaluating information and for recommending ATMPs.
4	Assist in the completion of a set number of ATMPs each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice on a realistic number of ATMPs to complete each year.
5	Maximize effectiveness of NPOAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a work plan and ensure tasks are completed. • Establish groundrules, decision-making process. • Develop communications protocol and approach. • Ensure that Native American perspectives are represented at NPOAG. • Use balanced subgroups of the Advisory Group to focus on specific issues. • Agree on a frequency of meetings and alternative ways of meeting in order to effectively complete tasks. • For live meetings, attempt to schedule at parks that are pertinent to work effort.
6	Provide useful advice to FAA/NPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use established subgroups to provide timely advice through NPOAG to FAA/NPS including but not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiet technology incentives ○ Competitive bidding procedures ○ Native American issues ○ IOA modifications ○ Significant adverse impacts ○ New entrant operators – how to proceed with requests • Advise agencies on provisions of accountability and enforcement essential to effective implementation of the act. • Provide advice to NPS/FAA on obtaining additional perspectives from various groups such as Native Hawaiians. • Provide advice on management and administration of IOA.

ATTACHMENT 4

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN: TASKS AND PRIORITIES

Note: Members of the NPOAG added a 12th task (highlighted in yellow) to the initial list of tasks developed in December. Comments the facilitation team added as a result of NPOAG actions are highlighted in green. At the request of the Group, the facilitation team revised the tasks to reflect the Advisory Group's decisions on initial goals and objectives (highlighted in blue). NPOAG will review, revise and approve tasks and priorities to complete NPOAG's strategic plan at the Group's next meeting or conference call.

	Task	Priority	Action Items	Responsibility	Date Assigned	Due Date	Comments/Status
1.	Assist FAA/NPS in Resolution of Jurisdictional Issues	High +++		NPOAG, FAA, NPS			This is precedent setting – what does this mean for other activities? What can NPOAG do if FAA/NPS are unable to agree? Consider assisting NPS/FAA in the development of groundrules. FAA/NPS met in December to discuss this issue.
2.	Establish Groundrules, Decision-Making Process	High+		NPOAG			Related to communication protocol. NPOAG completed this task on 2/25/09
3.	Form a Subgroup of the Advisory Group to Assist in ATMP Completion	High+		NPOAG subcommittee			Small group will be assigned to one ATMP area. The group will meet with local representatives of the Parks, FAA and operators and report back to NPOAG. NPOAG will consider, discuss, and make recommendations. Rainbow Bridge, Glen Canyon and Bryce were suggested as initial places for a subgroup to visit.
4.	Determine Low Priority Parks and Establish Criteria/Guidelines for Superintendents	High		NPAOG, FAA, NPS			Within administrative authority of NPS? What are the criteria? Consensus is needed on the likelihood of impacts to a park.
5.	Establish “Refined” Work Plan	High	At next meeting, complete strategic plan.	NPOAG	2/25/09	Next Telecon call – Spring 2009	Track tasks and ensure follow-up.
6.	Bring an ATMP to Conclusion	High		NPOAG, FAA, NPS			
7.	Improve Native American Representation at NPOAG	High		FAA, NPS			Native American representatives are needed to remind the group of cultural concerns.
8.	Provide Advice on Competitive Bidding Procedures	High		NPOAG			FAA will provide a straw man for discussion.

	Task	Priority	Action Items	Responsibility	Date Assigned	Due Date	Comments/Status
9.	Prioritize Parks for ATMPs	Medium +		NPOAG with input from NPS/FAA			Factors to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where noise monitoring has been done • Various lists already developed from past efforts • Focus on a new park or one in process? • Chart – Parks with OF and Noise
10.	Provide Advice on Quiet Technology Incentives	Low → High		NPOAG			The law may need to change. For some parks, there may not be a meaningful reduction in noise.
11.	Develop a Process for Determining Noise Problems for New Entrants	High for NPS, FAA		NPS			Not a high priority for NPOAG.
12.	Provide advice and guidance on ATMPs and IOAs						<p>FAA to confirm that the Act does not incorporate enforcement.</p> <p>Explore whether implementation of the Act incorporates enforcement.</p> <p>Many members of NPOAG feel that implementation, accountability and enforcement are very important issues.</p>
13.	Develop and implement ATMPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring to conclusion one ATMP that can serve as a model for future ATMPs. - Use results to design a process that can be used as a template for future ATMPs. 						
14.	Provide advice on significant adverse impacts						
15.	Identify and develop a common base of technical and scientific information relevant to the development of ATMPs						

	Task	Priority	Action Items	Responsibility	Date Assigned	Due Date	Comments/Status
16.	Develop an orientation packet for new NPOAG members that will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislative history and background - Mission, goals and objectives NPOAG Strategic plan						
17.	Develop a communications protocol that addresses the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - input into meeting agendas - distribution of materials in advance of meetings - distribution of meeting summaries and other materials within one month of the meeting - between meeting communications - subgroup communications internally and with NPOAG - Regular updates from the agencies between meetings Contact list of NPOAG members and agency staff						
18.	Determine criteria for prioritizing National Parks for Air Tour Management Plans.						
19.	Prioritize National Parks for ATMPs						
20.	Develop a resource guide explaining the ATMP process for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Park Service and FAA staff - The public Air tour operators						
21.	Agree on a frequency of meetings and alternative ways of meeting in order to effectively complete tasks.						
22.	Obtain additional perspectives from various groups such as Native Hawaiians						